

REMARKS

These remarks and amendments are in response to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2001. Please disregard the reply filed on 5/14/01. Claims 3 to 8 are pending. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to independent claims, and to eliminate recitation of a generic consensus sequence.

The specific responses hereunder are numbered to correspond with the Office Action layout.

SPECIFICATION

With respect to Office Action paragraph 1, the specification has been amended on page 11, lines 10-12, to delete [R].

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

With respect to Office Action paragraph 1, Claim 4 is an independent claim defining a pharmaceutical composition consisting of the peptides recited in claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. It is not a dependent claim.

CONCLUSION

In summary, for the reasons set forth herein, Applicant maintains that claims 3 - 8, as now amended, clearly and patentably define the invention by removing any reference to the contentious algorithm (generic consensus sequence) as previously agreed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the various grounds set forth in the Office Action, and allow the claims now pending.

If the Examiner would like to discuss any of the issues raised in the Office Action,

Applicants' representative can be reached at (760) 788-7401.

Respectfully submitted,

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